

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

As the lesser florican is highly endangered, every sighting is important, and information on dispersal and distribution must be recorded to help in their conservation.

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6. ON THE LONGEVITY OF THE GREAT PIED HORNBILL *BUCEROS BICORNIS* IN CAPTIVITY

Two young female specimens of the great pied hornbill, *Buceros bicornis* Linn., were received at Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Orissa on June 26, 1967 through an animal dealer based in Calcutta (=Kolkata). They lived for 32 years, 4 months and 4 days in captivity, and died at an estimated age of 33 years. Both the birds were found dead during the super-cyclone that hit coastal Orissa on October 29-30, 1999.

These hornbills were always displayed in a spacious enclosure encompassing one or more trees, and with provision to protect them from extreme weather conditions. They were fed with goat's meat and liver, banana and boiled rice. Multivitamin supplements were added to the diet intermittently.

The great pied hornbill is uncommon in captivity. It rarely breeds under captive conditions. Sálím Ali (1996) in the BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS, BNHS/OUP, mentions that the age to which a bird is capable of living varies according to the species, its

environment and the particular conditions under which it lives. Perusal of the literature did not reveal any information on the longevity of this species in captivity. The longevity of 32 years, 4 months and 4 days recorded in this Park appears to be the longest so far reported for this species in captivity, though the death was due to unnatural causes.

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